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**DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY**

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As a below-named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, mailing address, and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am an original and first inventor of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

**PREPARATION OF DEFINED HIGHLY LABELED PROBES**

the specification of which is attached hereto.

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment specifically referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, including for continuation-in-part applications, material information which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of the continuation-in-part application.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d) or (f), or 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent, inventor's or plant breeder's rights certificate(s), or 365(a) of any PCT international application which designated at least one country other than the United States of America, listed below and have also identified below, by checking the box, any foreign application for patent, inventor's or plant breeder's rights certificate(s), or any PCT international application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

| Prior Foreign Application Nos. | Country | Foreign Filing Date | Priority Not Claimed     | Certified Copy Attached? Yes | Certified Copy Attached? No |
|--------------------------------|---------|---------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
|                                |         |                     | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>     | <input type="checkbox"/>    |
|                                |         |                     | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>     | <input type="checkbox"/>    |
|                                |         |                     | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>     | <input type="checkbox"/>    |
|                                |         |                     | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/>     | <input type="checkbox"/>    |

### POWER OF ATTORNEY

I hereby appoint the attorney(s) and agent(s) of Sonnenschein Nath & Rosenthal associated with Customer Number 26263, with full power of revocation and substitution, to prosecute this application and to transact all business with the United States Patent and Trademark Office in connection therewith.

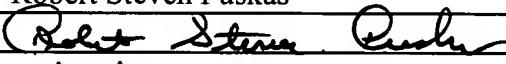
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SEND CORRESPONDENCE AND DIRECT TELEPHONE CALLS TO:

Kevin W. Buckley.  
SONNENSCHEIN NATH & ROSENTHAL  
(314) 259-5817  
Customer Number 26263

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I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

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|------------------------------------|--|
| Inventor:                          | Robert Steven Puskas   |
| Inventor's Signature:              |  |
| Date:                              | 14/03/03   |
| Country of Citizenship:            | US   |
| Residence and Post Office Address: | Manchester, Missouri   |

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